First Responder Safety Tips



FIRST ON SCENE CRITICAL SAFETY ACTIONS

- Minimize your exposure
- · Do not try to shut down the lab
- Evacuate everyone from the vicinity of the lab site
- · Secure the area
- Call for assistance
- · Render first aid
- · Avoid areas of odor, discoloration and visible danger
- · Do not allow smoking around the lab site
- Do not touch or smell any lab equipment or chemicals
- · Observe from a distance

FIRST TO RESPOND

- · Designate a lead agency
- · Identify actions taken so far
- Notify appropriate personnel (fire, police, child services)
- · Notify certified clan lab personnel
- Ensure proper safety equipment is worn
- Identify if there is a potential for fires or explosions
- If possible identify threatening environmental conditions
- Make arrests and or gather suspect information
- Complete all required documentation
- Collect evidence once it has been decontaminated

CHEMICAL ODORS OF METH PRODUCTION

- Ether-like: Aromatic, sweet odor often accompanied by a sweet taste. Sometimes described as a "hospital odor."
 Nasal irritant.
- Solvent-like: Sweet odor from common solvents used in paint thinners, paint removers, adhesives, and cleaning fluids. Type of odor often found in an auto body shop. Eye and nasal irritant.
- Ammonia-like: An intense, sharp, irritating odor similar to but much stronger than that from wet diapers, glass cleaners, cattle feedlots or fertilizers. Eye and nasal irritant.

INDICATORS OF METH USE

- · Aggressive and violent behavior
- · Hyperactivity and compulsiveness
- Paranoia and hallucinations
- · Restlessness/agitation
- · Dilated pupils
- Talkativeness

For more information on meth and related concerns, contact the Indiana Meth Watch Program. (877) 855-METH

First Responder Safety Tips

UPON ARRIVAL AT THE HOME

- Park within direct sight of the home's entry. Park in well-lit, unobstructed area. Don't park in driveway of home.
- Be aware of any drug paraphernalia in the area surrounding the home.
- Keep your hands as free as possible. Do not be distracted by talking on a cell phone.
- Present yourself calm, confident, observant and in control.
- Be aware of your surroundings and leave if your instincts tell you to.
- Leave the home immediately if you smell chemicals.

UNUSUAL SECURITY/VENTILATION MEASURES

- · Windows blacked out or covered
- Exterior video surveillance systems
- Elaborate fencing and heavy duty locks
- Fans positioned to ventilate the home
- Night vision equipment
- Protective, aggressive dogs
- Weapons and booby traps
- · Baby room monitors being used outdoors

ADDITIONAL INDICATORS OF A METH LAB

- Reddish stained coffee filters, canning jars with multi-colored liquids, aquarium-type tubing used in bottles or jugs
- Battery casings, crumpled/burnt foil
- · Light bulbs with filament removed
- Bottles with clear tubing in the cap
- Propane tanks that the brass valve has turned blue

LARGE AMOUNTS OF INGREDIENTS, SUCH AS:

- Cold and allergy medicine
- · Anhydrous ammonia
- · Lithium batteries
- Acetone
- · Gas-line additive
- · Table or rock salt
- · Drain cleaner
- Starting fluid
- Brake cleaner
- Ether
- Lye
- · Camping fuel
- Matchbooks
- Iodine
- · Rubbing or Isopropyl alcohol

If you suspect meth production, leave the home immediately and contact your local law enforcement agency

P	hon	e N	um	be	r

This grant project is funded by the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Grant Program awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice, as administered by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute and the Indiana State Police.

Information reproduced with permission from the Kansas Methamphetamine Prevention Project